

NCO Keeping Warriors at Full Strength

By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel
122nd MPAD

CAMP COOKE-
America's First Team
announced that the division met

third-quarter retention goals on July 3. One of the reasons the division met those goals was due to Master Sgt. Joni Evans, 4th Brigade Combat Team's

retention non-commissioned officer in charge.

"This job is my life," Evans said.

With 17 of her 25 years in

the military dedicated to career counseling, that claim is not made lightly.

"The years of experience really help," Evans said. "I can speak to almost every fear and concern that Soldiers coming to see me might have."

Evans said with the division deployed, retention within the First Team has brought new challenges.

"Many Soldiers are worn out with the current operations tempo," she said. "But when you sit down with them and compare what their options might be in the civilian world, where you don't know for sure if you're going to have a job one day to the next, a job that you are completely assured of, even with a high operations tempo, becomes more appealing."

Her approach must be working. Over the third quarter, Evans has reenlisted 63 Cav. troopers in the 4BCT. Evans

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By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

Cpl. Matthew McDaniel, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team talks with Master Sgt. Joni Evans, 4th BCT retention non-commissioned officer in charge about the options he might have upon reenlistment.

2BCT, 10th Mountain Division Joins First Team

BAGHDAD, Iraq- Approximately 2,000 Soldiers from the Second Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, out of Fort Drum, N.Y. made the "Climb to Glory" last week as they convoyed from Kuwait to Baghdad, Iraq. The "Commandos" will serve with the 1st Cavalry Division for one year at Forward Operating Bases throughout Baghdad.

The 2BCT, 10th MD, is

under the leadership of Col. Intelligence Battalion.

Mark Milley, and includes the Brigade Headquarters Company; 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment; 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment; 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment; 210th Forward Support Battalion; Company B, 10th Signal Battalion; and elements of the 110th Military



"The nation is fully committed to the Global War on Terror, and the Army is committed to meeting America's security challenges," said 10th Mountain Division commander Maj. Gen. Lloyd Austin. "Our

Soldiers are deploying with the best training and best equipment available."

Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division said he's proud to have the Commandos serving with the First Team.

"We've had a big troops-to-task issue since we arrived here," he said. "Having the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 10th Mountain to augment our efforts is a welcome addition. They've got a great reputation and we look forward to working closely with them."

Eagle Soldiers Get Creative with Words

By Spc. Andy Miller
122nd MPAD

CAMP EAGLE- The day in, day out routine of life in a combat zone has many Soldiers looking for a diversion at the end of the duty day. Movies, video games, internet and the gym are some of the most popular pastimes for Soldiers, as time permits. Some, however, look inward for a source of recreation that is found only through their own creativity.

Camp Eagle held its first *Eagle's Cry* open forum poetry event July 9. It was a chance for Soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division stationed there to showcase their creative talents in an open venue. The event founder, Sgt. Wesley Williams, a chaplain's assistant with 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment (Task Force Lancer), said he sees poetry as a way for someone to artistically express their views.

"I wanted to give everybody who is interested in the field or area, the chance to express themselves, and have another outlet to release their stress out here in this camp," Williams said.

Like Williams, Spc. Steve McSwain, a communica-



By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

Spc. Steve McSwain, a communications specialist with the 13th Signal Battalion of Task Force Lancer checks the generator that runs his communications equipment at Camp Eagle in Eastern Baghdad. McSwain began writing poetry while growing up in Sacramento. Now in Baghdad, he said most of the poetry he writes is for his wife back in Killeen, Texas.

tions specialist with the 13th Signal Battalion, uses poetry to express himself. He said he started writing as a way to relieve stress, but lately, most of his poetry is written for his wife back in Killeen, Texas.

"Back home, where I'm from, relieving stress is joining

a gang," McSwain said about growing up in Sacramento, Calif. "But for me, I took my aggression out on paper."

Recently one of the poems written for his wife was selected as an editor's choice award and will be published in an

upcoming book of poetry.

Pvt. William Richie, a Paladin Howitzer crewmember with Battery C, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, is another Soldier at Camp Eagle who's had poetry published. He's been writing poet-

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Friday

High: 112
Low: 86



Saturday

High: 113
Low: 87



Sunday

High: 115
Low: 87



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

Iraqi Word of the Day

ammunition - laa-tad / dhe-khee-reh

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Music, Poetry Come From The Heart



By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

Pvt. William Richie, a Paladin Howitzer crewmember with Battery C, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment with Task Force Lancer, pumps some iron before going out on guard duty for the night. After the duty day, usually spent on guard duty, Richie said he likes to write poetry and music. He's been writing since the seventh grade and some of his work has been published in poetry anthologies.

Continued from Page 2

ry since he was in the seventh grade, and more recently, he's gotten involved with writing music with other Soldiers from the First Team.

Richie said if someone is interested in writing poetry or music, they should go ahead and do it without worrying about what others might think.

"As long as it's good to you, it doesn't matter what anyone else thinks," Richie said. "As long as you pour your heart into it, and you honestly sit down there and write something that's compelling to you, it's going to touch the hearts of other people."

**Today in Cav
History
July 16**



1952 - The Korean GI Bill enacted

Retention NCO Has Great Support

Continued from Page 1

said she has also helped Troopers of 2nd Battalion 7th Cavalry Regiment.

"2-7 doesn't really have a retention representative here being they've been broken off from their home brigade to augment the 39BCT," she said. "I also point Soldiers of the 39BCT in the right direction with who they need to talk to regarding reserve component matters. So really, in some way shape or form, I have a hand in all the retention efforts on Camp Cooke."

Attributing much of her success to those who support her, Evans lauded the efforts of the command and senior non-commissioned officers of the Brigade.

"I have great support," she said. "I don't think there has been a time when a Soldier has been in my office and Command Sgt. Maj. Sanders (the Brigade Sgt. Maj.) doesn't stop in, talk to the Soldier, see how they're doing and just be there for them."

Reflecting on her years as a career counselor and plans for the future, Evans has plans to retire when she returns home.

"I will certainly miss doing this for a living," she said. "In 17 years, my job has never been boring, it never gets old. No single Soldier that walks through my doors ever has the same needs, wants or desires. That has definitely kept it very interesting."

Will I Still be the Same?

Will I still be the same?
When I leave these desert
sands
Will you still know my
name
Will you still know my
look?
Or will I be like a changed
story
With the cover of a differ-
ent book
Will you still love me now
Even if you don't see me, or
hear the way I sound
Or am I just a distant
thought
A memory once known but
now forgot
Will it cause you sorrow or
pain to see me again?
Like a dead son resurrect-
ed
Or will it bring you joy &
happiness the moment
that I step in
Will you throw a party the
moment I come home?
The greatest one that I've

ever known
Or leave me be just like
they did the soldier that
came from Vietnam
Will I still be the same?
My look my sound my eyes
my spirit the joy that I hold
inside
Will I still be strong young
and bold
Or will tears come out of
my eyes
Will I still be the comedian
that made you laugh?
Who was young?
Or only a shell of the man
you once knew
Sorrowful and gloom
Will my mind have aged 10
years to give me a bolder
view of life?
To have a better concept of
true happiness
Even through the struggles
and strife
To understand no matter
what type all life is pre-
cious

To be a man that's calm
and gentle instead of young
and restless
Will I still be the same?
I already know the answer
Lies, destruction, deceit,
terrorism, they all lead to
cancer
But I've learned loyalty
duty respect
Selfless service honor
integrity and personal
courage
Will I still be the same?
No I'll bet the one who
merges
All of what I've learned
together and obtains victo-
ry
Will I still be the same?
No, but you'll always know
me

**By Pvt. William Richie
I-82 FA, Camp Eagle,
Baghdad, Iraq**

Today in History

July 16

► From historychannel.com

1769 Father Jun  pero Serra, a Spanish Franciscan missionary, founds the first Catholic mission in California on the site of present-day San Diego. After Serra blessed his new outpost of Christianity in a high mass, the royal standard of Spain was unfurled over the mission, which he named San Diego de Alcal  .

1918 In Yekaterinburg, Russia, Czar Nicholas II and his family are executed by the Bolsheviks, bringing an end to the three-century-old Romanov dynasty. Under house arrest since March 1917, the Romanovs had been taken to a cellar under the pretense of having their photograph taken when Bolshevik troops stormed in and shot them to death.

1945 At 5:29:45 a.m., the Manhattan Project comes to an explosive end as the first atom bomb is successfully tested in Alamogordo, N.M.

1951 Salinger's only novel, *The Catcher in the Rye*, is published by Little, Brown in 1951. The book, about a confused teenager disillusioned by the adult world, is an instant hit and will be taught in high schools for half a century.

1969 At 9:32 a.m. EDT, Apollo 11, the first U.S. lunar landing mission, is launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla., on a historic journey to the surface of the moon. After traveling 240,000 miles in 76 hours, Apollo 11 entered into a lunar orbit on July 19.

1999 John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy; and her sister, Lauren Bessette, die when the single-engine plane that Kennedy was piloting crashes into the Atlantic Ocean near Martha's Vineyard, Mass.



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Lifeguards Larissa Wright (left) and Aundi Ponder run their hands through the waterfalls at Diamond Springs before the water park opened at noon Wednesday at the Crater of Diamonds State Park in Murfreesboro.

New Water Park Opens at Diamond Site

By *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*

MURFREESBORO, Ark. — Carolyn Farrell took her two young granddaughters to dig Wednesday at North America's only diamond site open to the public.

But after digging for diamonds, the two girls, ages 3 and 5, were soon frolicking in the shallow pool of Crater of Diamonds State Park's new \$1.2 million water playground.

Farrell said she wasn't sure what made the biggest impression on her granddaughters.

"It'll be interesting to see years from now what they remember the most — this, or hunting for diamonds," said Farrell, watching the girls from a shaded deck chair.

More than 4,275 people have visited the water playground — Diamond Springs — since it opened Memorial Day weekend, said Joan Ellison, Arkansas State Parks spokesman.

The 4,000-square-foot pool slopes to three feet at its deepest and features 30-foot

and 50-foot water tubes, fountains for children to run through, waterfalls and a small, mining-themed tower with sprayers and a slide.

No other Arkansas state park has a similar water playground, although some have regular swimming pools with water cannons, geysers and small slides, according to state parks information.

Crater of Diamonds State Park is the world's only publicly operated diamond site where the public can search for gems and keep their finds. The largest diamond ever discovered in the United States was unearthed there in 1924; about 600 diamonds are usually found each year.

The water playground aims to help visitors enjoy the park even more and attract more money to southwest Arkansas' economy, said Crater of Diamonds Superintendent Tom Stolarz.

About 70 percent to 80 percent of the park's summer visitors, like Carolyn Farrell, are from out of state.

News Briefs

Soldiers Fly First Class

By AP

DALLAS— Eight Soldiers flying home from Iraq for two weeks of R&R flew in style instead of coach after first-class passengers offered to swap seats with them.

"The Soldiers were very, very happy, and the whole aircraft had a different feeling," flight attendant Lorrie Gammon told The Dallas Morning News in Thursday's editions.

The June 29 seat-swap on American Airlines Flight 866 from Atlanta to Chicago started before boarding, when a businessman approached one of the Soldiers and traded his seat.

When the swapping was done, "the other two first-class passengers wanted to give up their seats, too, but they couldn't find any more Soldiers," Gammon said.

Another flight attendant, Candi Spradlin, said she was impressed with the acts of good will.

"If nothing else, those Soldiers got a great homecoming," she said.

Fish Buyers Beware

By *Gannett News Services*

There's something fishy at the seafood counter. Genetic tests indicate that 77 percent of fish sold as red snapper nationwide are other species illegally mislabeled as the popular entree, according to a new study.

Fisheries experts say that many of the most popular fish and seafood sold are sometimes something else entirely. People paying premium prices for swordfish, for example, often get the much cheaper mako shark.

Scientists at the University of North Carolina sampled fish from eight states. The study appears in today's edition of the journal *Nature*.

Rocket Gets Rocked; Shaq in Heat; Boozer in Utah

Trigger Pull:



MSG Dave
Larsen

Sports Buff

It's a good thing that this is an Olympic year. Unless you are a die-hard baseball fan, the mid-summer means a slow-down for sporting news. But there is enough going on to eek out a column for this issue, Sports Fans.

We'll start off with baseball, where Roger Clemens got bombed in baseball's mid-summer classic, giving home field advantage to the American League in the World Series. I'm thinking conspiracy here. First and foremost, consider the Rocket's recent ties to the New York Yankees (who everyone knows will WIN the American League pennant!), and his affection for Joe Torre. Then there's Clemens' disdain for his own battery mate on the N.L. squad, the Mets' Mike Piazza. Put two and two together, and *Voila!*, a

conspiracy theory is born.

I didn't get to actually see the Major League Baseball All-Star Game this year. Usually, I don't really care who wins ... even when the game ended in a tie two years ago in Milwaukee. But with home field advantage on the line, it makes the Rocket's meltdown in the game more significant. Clemens got tagged for six runs in one inning; three of them earned on five hits. He did manage to get strike outs for two of the three outs he registered. Other than that, he got rocked. The AL won the game, going away, 9-4.

Another all-star break story comes out of Houston, as the Astros sent their manager packing. Jimmy Williams had his team laboring to a 44-44 record at the break, despite the additions of Clemens and former Yankee Andy Pettitte. Phil Garner gets a shot at the job in the second half of the season, but his team trails the Cardinals by double-digits.

Garner is a former Astro himself, and most recently led the Detroit Tigers to the worst record in baseball. Garner

NEVER had this much talent to work with before, though.

If Garner can pull this group together, a wild card appearance in the play-offs isn't out of the question, but I'm still betting on the Cubs and Cardinals making it in from the tough NL Central Division.

Another big news item comes from the National Basketball Association: the Lakers are dead. Shaquille O'Neal is history in Tinsel Town and headed east to Miami. Heat president Pat Riley was even able to get the big fella without giving away his most-prized ball player, guard Dwayne Wade. Shaq said that he will make Wade even better.

A final note about the NBA: Carlos Boozer is leaving Cleveland for Utah. The Jazz surprised the league last year, finishing 42-40 when most "experts" picked them dead last. They narrowly missed the play-offs out west, and the addition of Boozer should put them back in the post-season mix.

That's the news, as I see it. Until next time: Go Packers!



AP

National League All-Star Roger Clemens of the Houston Astros walks back to the mound as New York Mets catcher Mike Piazza stands in the background during the first inning of the 75th Major League All-Star game July 13 at Minute Maid Stadium in Houston.



MLB



scores as of July 15
8:15 p.m. PDT

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Baltimore 5
Tampa Bay 4

New York 5
Detroit 1

Kansas City 3
Minnesota 1

NATIONAL LEAGUE

St. Louis 7
Cincinnati 2

New York 1 (11 innings)
Philadelphia 0

Chicago 4
Milwaukee 1

Atlanta 8
Montreal 0

TV GUIDE	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
6 p.m.	Ozzy & Drix/ As Told By Ginger	Tonight Show with Jay Leno/ The Late Show with David Letterman	The Sports Reporters/ Pardon the Interruption	The X-Files
7 p.m.	Jeopardy/ Headline News	Access Hollywood 7:30 p.m.	SportsCenter	The Wild Thornberrys/ Spongebob Squarepants
8 p.m.	ESPNNews/ Headline News	Never Been Kissed	British Open Golf Tournament - Second Round	The Simpsons/ Happy Days
9 p.m.	The Simpsons/ Malcolm in the Middle	The Sons of Katie Elder 9:45 p.m.		The Dead Zone
10 p.m.	The Apprentice			Boston Public